

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-18. (canceled).

19. (currently amended) A method for disinfecting the surface of an article comprising:

contacting said surface with a composition containing comprising an effective amount of 1-(2-ethyl-hexyl)glycerol ether to disinfect said surface at a temperature equal to or greater than about 40°C, wherein said surface is inanimate.

20. (currently amended) The method according to claim 19, ~~further comprising~~ wherein said composition further comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) additional agent; and b) auxiliary.

21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein said additional agent is citric acid.

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein said citric acid contains no alcohol.

23. (currently amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein said ~~further~~ additional agent comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) aldehydes; b) amines; c) phenols; d) halogen compounds; e) carboxylic acids; and f) aromatic alcohols.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said aromatic alcohol comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) o-phenylphenol; b) triclosan; c) o-phthalaldehyde; d) Lonzabac 12; and e) Lonzabac LF.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein said auxiliary comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) aldehydes; b) amines; c) phenols; d) halogen compounds; e) carboxylic acids; f) wetting agents; g) cleaning components; h) corrosion inhibitors; i) nonionic surfactants; j) anionic surfactants; k) amphoteric surfactants; l) buffers; m) acids; n) alkalizing agents; o) perfumes; p) dyes; q) salts; r) indicators; s) markers; t) complexing agents; and u) antifoams.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein said auxiliary comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) sodium chloride; b) o-phenylphenol; c) triclosan; d) o-phthaldialdehyde; e) Lonzabac 12; f) Lonzabac LF; g) sodium benzoate; and h) sodium hydroxide.

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said composition is in the form of an aqueous solution.

28. (currently amended) The method according to claim 19, further comprising:

obtaining an anhydrous form of said composition; and

diluting said anhydrous form with water to form said composition ~~wherein said composition is anhydrous.~~

29-32. (cancelled)

33. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[32]] 19, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 40 to about 80°C.

34. (previously presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 45 to about 60°C.

35. (previously presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 45 to about 55°C.

36. (previously presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein said temperature is about 50°C.

37. (currently amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein said disinfection process occurs at elevated pressure and [[a]] said temperature ~~in the range of from about 25 is~~ to about 170°C.

38. (previously presented) The method according to claim 37, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 80 to about 160°C.

39. (previously presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 100 to about 150°C.

40. (previously presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 120 to 140°C.

41. (previously presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 130 to 135°C.

42. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said surface is wetted, sprayed, rubbed, wiped or moistened with the composition.

43. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said surface is dipped into the composition.

44. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said surface is disinfected by atomizing the composition.

45. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said surface to be disinfected comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) metal; b) glass; c) wood; d) plastic; e) textile; and f) ceramic.

46. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said article to be disinfected is at least one device selected from the group consisting of: a) medical instrument; b) laboratory apparatus; c) thermolabile materials; and d) thermostable materials.

47. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said article to be disinfected is at least one

device selected from the group consisting of: a) bottle; b) air-conditioning system; c) membrane; d) ion exchanger; e) cooling water circulation; and f) endoscope.

48. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said disinfection occurs for a time in the range of from about 10 seconds to about 1 hour.

49. (previously presented) The method according to claim 48, wherein said range is from about 1 minute to about 30 minutes.

50. (previously presented) The method according to claim 49, wherein said range is from about 5 to about 15 minutes.

51. (currently amended) The method according to claim 19, further comprising:

obtaining a concentrate form of said composition, said concentrate having from about 1 to about 20% by weight of said glycerol ether; and

diluting said concentrate with water to form said composition ~~wherein the amount of said glycerol ether present in said composition comprises a level in the range of from about 1 to about 20% by weight of said composition.~~

52. (currently amended) The method according to claim 51, wherein ~~said range~~ said amount of glycerol ether is from about 2 to about 10% in said concentrate.

53. (currently amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein said composition further comprises about 80% or more of water by weight.

54. (currently amended) The method according to claim 53, wherein said ~~weight is in the range of~~ composition comprises from about 89.5% to about 99.45% water by weight.

55. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[52]] 54, wherein said ~~weight is in the range of~~ composition comprises from about 94.9% to about 98.9% water by weight.

56. (currently amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein further comprising:

obtaining a concentrate form of said composition, said composition, in the form of a concentrate, further comprises comprising up to about 40% of water by weight; and

diluting said concentrate with water to form said composition.

57. (currently amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein said ~~components are present in a composition comprising:~~ composition comprises: a) from about 0.01 to about 1.0% of glycerol ether by weight as said effective amount; and b) from about 0.1 to about 15% of at least one additional agent by weight.

58. (currently amended) The method according to claim 57, wherein said composition comprises: a) from about 0.025 to about 0.5% of glycerol ether by weight as said effective amount, and b) from about 0.5 to about 10% of at least one additional agent by weight.

59. (currently amended) The method according to claim 58, wherein said composition ~~glycerol ether~~ comprises about 0.1% of said glycerol ether by weight as said effective amount of the total composition.

60. (currently amended) The method according to claim 56, wherein said concentrate is diluted so that said composition comprises weight is in the range of from about 94.5 to about 99.725% by weight water.

61. (currently amended) The method according to claim 60, wherein said composition comprises ~~weight is in the range of~~ from about 97.8 to about 99.45% by weight water.

62. (previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition further comprises: c) a salt.

63. (currently amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein ~~the pH of~~ said composition ~~[[is]]~~ has a pH in the range of from about 3 to about 10.

64-65. (cancelled)

66. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein said composition disinfects at least one component selected from the group consisting of: a) bacteria; b)

yeasts; c) molds; d) mycobacteria; e) viruses; f) propionibacteria (Propionibacterium acnes); g) dandruff-causing microbes (Malassezia furfur); h) prions; i) odour-causing microorganisms; j) lower harmful organisms; k) protozoa; l) pores; and m) fungi.

67. (currently amended) A process for the disinfection of an article comprising the steps of:

i) cleaning said article with a neutral cleaner;

ii) disinfecting of said article with a composition comprising an effective amount of 1-(2-ethyl-hexyl) glycerol ether at least one 1- or 2-(C₃ to C₂₄ alkyl)glycerol ethers and at least one aromatic alcohol;

iii) rinsing said article with cold water; and

iv) drying said article.

68. (currently amended) The process according to claim 67, ~~wherein said process further comprises~~ further comprising the step of precleaning said article with cold water before step i).

69. (currently amended) The process according to claim 67, wherein ~~the operating temperature of said cleaning occurs at a~~ temperature in the range of from about 55 to about 60°C.

70. (currently amended) The process according to claim 67, wherein ~~the operating temperature of said cleaning occurs at~~ a temperature of about 93°C.

71. (previously presented) The process according to claim 67, wherein said disinfection occurs at an operating temperature in the range of from about 55 to about 60°C.

72. (previously presented) The process according to claim 67, wherein said disinfection occurs at an operating temperature in the range of from about 90 to about 100°C.

73. (previously presented) The process according to claim 72, wherein said temperature is in the range of from about 90 to about 95°C.

74. (previously presented) The process according to claim 67, wherein said drying occurs at an operating temperature of from about 40 to about 60°C.

75. (previously presented) The process according to claim 67, wherein said disinfection occurs at an operating time of from about 1 to about 20 minutes.